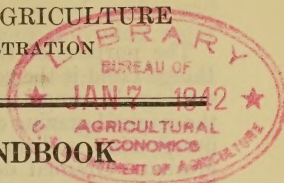


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION
SOUTHERN DIVISION



TEXAS AND OKLAHOMA HANDBOOK

1942 Agricultural Conservation Program for Range Land

[Program effective from December 1, 1941, to November 30, 1942, except that in Brooks, Cameron, Duval, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Starr, Willacy, and Zapata Counties, Texas, the program is effective from December 1, 1941, to October 31, 1942.]

Grass.—Next in importance to the divine profusion of water, light, and air, those three physical facts which render existence possible, may be reckoned the universal beneficence of grass. * * * It yields no fruit in earth or air, and yet should its harvest fail for a single year, famine would depopulate the world.

—JOHN J. INGALLS.

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FOREWORD

The conservation of the grasslands of the country is necessary:

To assure an adequate meat supply to the consumers of the Nation.

To assist the individual ranchmen in conserving the productivity of their ranches.

To aid in the prevention of destructive floods that annually carry fertile topsoil down the streams and destroy valuable public and private property.

Success of the conservation of the range lands and the benefits to be derived by the general public and the ranchmen depend upon the efficient use of the practices which are available through the Agricultural Conservation Program for Range Land.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program for Range Land is the conservation of soil on range land. Need for conserving the range in Texas and Oklahoma arises from the fact that the original grazing capacity has been gradually cut down by droughts, overgrazing, rodents, and noxious plants, all of which increase soil erosion. Gradual depletion of grass not only has meant a serious loss of forage to stockmen, but also has left the fertile topsoil of large areas of range land exposed to erosion.

This program is designed to help ranchmen put into operation the range-building practices which experiment and actual use have shown to be of value in helping to maintain or restore a good stand of grass on depleted range land. Grass offers the best protection to range soil. Land kept covered by a sufficient stand of grass almost always shows constant improvement. Rarely is it seriously affected by erosion. Consequently, the program provides practices which will help to maintain or restore a good stand of grass by eliminating competition of range-destroying plants, by preventing erosion, and by conserving water in the more arid regions.

Natural reseeding by deferred grazing.—One of the most important practices is that of natural reseeding. This is accomplished by keeping all livestock off the pasture from the start of the growth of grass in the spring until the seed has matured.

A different portion of the ranch should be selected each year for natural reseeding by deferred grazing, so that the entire ranch eventually may be reseeded. The operator cannot qualify for payment on land that normally would not be grazed during this period, nor will he be eligible for payment if he permits any part of his ranch to be injuriously overgrazed.

Before beginning the practice of deferred grazing, the area on which grazing is to be deferred must be designated in writing by the operator and approved by the county committee. The payment for this practice will be limited to 40 percent of the range-building allowance, unless the State committee has approved additional recommended practices and other conservation measures to be carried out in the county in connection with the deferred grazing practice.

Development of stock water on range land.—The better distribution of watering places will lessen erosion brought about through trampling and destruction of grass by stock going long distances to water. Stock traveling long distances to water create trails that develop into washes and gullies, causing increased run-off and damage from erosion.

The construction of earthen tanks and reservoirs is the most desirable method of impounding stock water under this program. Concrete or rubble-masonry dams may be constructed where earthen dams are not practicable. Dam sites should be chosen carefully and ranchmen must confer with the range inspector and obtain the approval of the county committee before construction is begun. After a dam site is definitely decided upon, a profile of the proposed dam shall be made and platted and benchmarks and reference points established, if the dam to be constructed will be 8 feet or more in height or will consist of approximately 300 cubic yards or more of earth, or if the surface of the ground on which the dam is to be con-

structed is extremely irregular. The construction of tanks and reservoirs will be approved only for the purpose of providing water for range livestock or for the control of erosion.

Development of natural watering places consists of improvement and development of springs and seeps by excavation. To qualify for payment, the operator must, at his own expense wall up the spring or seep with concrete or rubble-masonry walls, fence it to protect from trampling, and convey the water into a tank.

Erosion and run-off control.—Contour listing, furrowing, and chiseling and the building of spreader dams and terraces are erosion-control practices specified in the program. These practices hold water on the land where it falls, catch grass seed which otherwise would be lost, help prevent erosion, and keep the water out of gullies and creeks.

Elimination of destructive plants.—Soil may be conserved through encouraging an increased growth of grass by eliminating range-destroying plants which shade out grass or kill it by root competition.

Section 1. HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Ranchmen who wish to participate in the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program for Range Land will first sign the application for determination of grazing capacity, and then reach an agreement with the range inspector and secure the approval of the county committee as to the practices to be carried out on the ranch by filling out the Report of Examination of Range Land. A duly appointed representative of the county committee or State committee will visit participating ranches and approve and locate such practices as will effectuate the purposes of the program, make necessary surveys, and secure records for all proposed practices prior to the beginning of any compliance work. All practices will be carefully checked to see that they are carried out according to required specifications.

Section 2. PAYMENTS TO RANCH OPERATORS

Since ranch operators who carry out range building practices on their individual ranches are cooperating in the solution of a national problem, the 1942 program provides that they will receive payments from funds to be made available for this purpose by the Federal Government. These payments and the rates at which they will be made are contingent upon the appropriation by Congress of necessary funds. The payment rate may be increased or decreased by as much as 10 percent as an adjustment for participation.

For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the 1942 program, a ranch or ranching unit includes all range land in farms and ranches having more than 1920 acres of range land (except land owned by the United States Government) which is considered to be land that produces forage grazed by range livestock without cultivation or general irrigation, which is controlled by one operator as a separate unit in the production of range livestock, and which is operated with machinery, workstock, and labor substantially separate from that used on any other range land. A ranch is regarded as located in the county in which its principal dwelling is situated. A ranch on which

there is no dwelling is regarded as located in the county in which the greater portion of the land in the ranch is situated.

The maximum amount of money that can be earned under the program for carrying out range-building practices on any ranch is called the range building allowance. This allowance is calculated at the rate of **90 cents** for each animal unit of grazing capacity established for the ranch plus **2 cents** for each acre of range land in the ranch. It is provided, however, that the allowance cannot be computed on the basis of a grazing capacity of more than one animal unit for each 10 acres of range land and that the 2-cent rate on the acreage of range land cannot apply to more than 60 acres per animal unit of grazing capacity, and it is also provided that the range-building allowance shall not be less than \$160 for ranches containing 2,000 acres of range land or more, nor less than 8 cents per acre of range land for ranches containing more than 1920 acres but less than 2,000 acres.

An animal unit is one cow, one horse, five goats, or five sheep, or the equivalent thereof. The grazing capacity of a ranch is the number of animal units which the range land on the ranch will sustain on a 12-month basis over a period of years without decreasing the stand of grass or other grazing vegetation and without injury to the forage, tree growth, or watershed.

EXAMPLES

For illustration, assume that a ranch with 16,000 acres of range land has an established grazing capacity of 400 animal units or 40 acres per animal unit. The range-building allowance would be calculated as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| 16,000 (acres) × 2 cents | ----- | \$320 |
| 400 (animal units) × 90 cents | ----- | 360 |
| Range-building allowance | ----- | 680 |

In another case, assume that a ranch with 16,000 acres of range land has an established grazing capacity of 200 animal units. This would give the ranch more than the maximum of 60 acres per animal unit on which the payment of 2 cents per acre is allowed; therefore, the 2-cent payment would be made on only 60 acres per animal unit or 12,000 acres (grazing capacity multiplied by 60). The range-building allowance in this case would be calculated as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| 12,000 (acres) × 2 cents | ----- | \$240 |
| 200 (animal units) × 90 cents | ----- | 180 |
| Range-building allowance | ----- | 420 |

Another illustration of this minimum payment would be in the case of a ranch with 3,000 acres and a carrying capacity of 60 animal units. Under the regular procedure the range-building allowance would be computed as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------|------|
| 3,000 (acres) × 2 cents | ----- | \$60 |
| 60 (animal units) × 90 cents | ----- | 54 |
| Range-building allowance | ----- | 114 |

The minimum rate of 8 cents times 2,000 acres would give a range-building allowance for this ranch of \$160 instead of \$114 computed above.

In any case, the range-building allowance or any part of it must be earned by the ranch operator by carrying out approved range-building practices.

Section 3. INCREASE IN SMALL PAYMENTS

The sum of the payments computed for any person under the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program (or Special Agricultural Conservation Program) and the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program for Range Land for any farm (including range land), if less than \$200, will be increased by a specified amount. The amounts of increase will be approximately 40 percent in cases where the payment is \$20 or less. The increase ranges from \$8 for a \$20 payment to \$14 for a \$60 payment and is \$14 for all payments between \$60 and \$186. Payments between \$186 and \$200 will be increased to \$200. The increases will be the same as last year and may be found in a copy of the 1941 Texas or Oklahoma Handbook or secured from the county AAA office.

Section 4. HOW GRAZING CAPACITY IS DETERMINED

The grazing capacity of any ranch participating in the program in 1942 for the first time will be determined through a field survey by a county range inspector selected by the county committee with the approval of the State committee. In establishing the grazing capacity of a ranch the range inspector will take into consideration the composition, palatability, and density of forage growth; variations in weather conditions; distribution and character of watering facilities; topography; presence or absence of rodents and poisonous plants; and the number and classes of livestock previously carried. The grazing capacity of a ranch shall be based on the normal and not on the temporary condition alone, as found at the time of inspection.

On ranches where a grazing capacity was established in 1940 or 1941, detailed examination of the range land as to grazing capacity need not be made in 1942, except where it has been requested by the ranch operator or it is deemed necessary by the county committee, State committee, or the Agricultural Adjustment Administration that a new determination be made.

The average of the individual grazing capacities for all noncrop pasture and range land in the county shall not exceed the county average grazing capacity limit established by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration based on the available statistics and the recommendation of the State committee.

Section 5. PRACTICES AND CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT

Following is a complete list of approved range-building practices and rates of payments. Payment will be made for carrying out these practices, but the total payment made will not be more than the range-building allowance. Additional specifications may be issued by the State committee as indicated with the approval of the Director of the Southern Division. Payment will be made only for practices carried out in accordance with specifications on range land between December 1, 1941, and November 30, 1942, inclusive, except that in Brooks,

Cameron, Duval, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Starr, Willacy, and Zapata Counties, Texas, the period for carrying out practices shall be from December 1, 1941, to October 31, 1942, inclusive.

Payments for carrying out practices are conditioned upon the adoption or maintenance of conservative range management practices designed to secure or maintain a good stand of grass or other palatable forage plants and in bringing about such use of the forage resources of the ranch as will most effectively carry out the purposes of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. Payments under the 1942 program will be made only with respect to those ranching units on which the county committee certifies that such range management practices have been followed. **All practices must be approved in advance in writing by the county committee.** The practices approved by the county committee for any ranching unit shall be practices which the county committee finds are needed on the ranch in order to promote conservation and good range management.

Before deciding on the practices that he wishes to carry out, the ranch operator should, with the aid of the range supervisor, county agent, county committeemen, and others, plan a definite and comprehensive system of range management, incorporating therein such range-building practices as will best fit the ranch in question or certain portions of that ranch. As an illustration, there are a great many ranches where the practices ordinarily carried out are the construction of dams, the building of spreader terraces and spreader dams, and the conservation of water through contour furrow. It is probable that on such a ranch a better job would be done if the work were concentrated on one watershed, beginning first on the higher land with contour furrows, installation of spreader dams and terraces on the more gently sloping areas, and the construction of a dam in a location best adapted to water storage and erosion control after the other practices have been inaugurated. In subsequent years the activities under the program could be concentrated on another watershed and so on until a complete and well-integrated system of water and soil conservation has been carried out on the entire ranch. In another instance, it might be more desirable to eradicate a heavy infestation of cedar and mesquite. The eradication of these noxious plants is of prime importance to the ranch operator, but to get the most benefit the rancher would probably find it advisable to follow the eradication of these plants with a system of contour furrows, the piling of brush along contour lines, and the installation of spreader dams and terraces. Such a plan would require a definite outline and the cooperation of all persons concerned in carrying through to final completion the very best range management practices for the particular area and for the particular ranch in question. Following a definite and comprehensive system of range management will result in a much more worthwhile program.

The operator shall assume all responsibility for the acquiring of necessary permits, for the violation of any established water rights, or for other damage to property as a result of construction under the provisions of the 1942 program.

RESEEDING OF RANGE LAND

1. Natural reseeding by deferred grazing and supplemental practices:

(a) **Deferring 25 percent** of the range land in the ranching unit from grazing—**PAYMENT, 40 percent of the range-building allowance.** If grazing is deferred on less than 25 percent, a proportionate payment will be made.

The period for deferred grazing shall be the normal period from the start of forage growth to seed maturity.

The beginning of the 1942 nongrazing period in Texas and Oklahoma counties shall be set as a date between February 1, 1942, and July 1, 1942, inclusive, by the county committee with the approval of the State committee and the Director of the Southern Division. Notice of deferred grazing dates approved for the county shall be made available to all ranch operators in the county. The duration of a nongrazing period shall not be less than five consecutive months from the approved date for beginning the practice.

The ranch operator must submit to the county committee in writing the designation of the deferred grazing acreage prior to the initiation of the practice. This practice is not applicable to range land in the ranching unit which normally is not used for grazing.

The area deferred from grazing must be kept free of livestock during the deferred grazing period, and the ranch operator must carry out practices under such conditions or specifications as shall be established by the county committee with the approval of the State committee as needed in the interest of range conservation.

The range land **not in the deferred grazing area** must not be pastured to such an extent as will decrease the stand of grass or injure the forage, tree growth, or watershed.

(b) **Supplemental practices** required by the county committee—**PAYMENT, 60 percent of the range-building allowance.** If deferred grazing is carried out on less than 25 percent of the range land in the ranching unit, only a proportionate amount may be earned by carrying out these supplemental practices. The payment shall not exceed the value of such supplemental practices, which values shall be approved by the AAA based on recommendations of the county and State committees.

To be eligible for this payment, or a portion thereof, the ranch operator must defer a portion of the range land in the ranching unit from grazing and, in addition, must comply with such other practices and specifications not listed for payment in this handbook as have been recommended by the county committee and approved by the State committee, where the county committee determines such additional practices are needed in the interest of range conservation.

2. (a) Artificial reseeding of depleted range land—PAYMENT, 15 cents per pound of seed sown, but not in excess of \$2.00 per acre:

Good seed of adapted varieties of range grasses, legumes, or forage shrubs must be used and the range land properly prepared prior to seeding by mowing, contour listing, or such other methods as are

approved by the county committee as being good practices for such land.

Satisfactory documentary evidence must be submitted to the county committee regarding performance under this practice.

(b) **Seeding a pasture mixture on sod land—PAYMENT, \$1.50 per acre:**

This practice is limited to regions of 30 inches or more of average rainfall or in lower rainfall areas under irrigation or to moist bottom land, terraces, or where there is an accumulation of moisture in excess of rainfall. Each species must be generally known to be commonly found growing voluntarily under conditions comparable to the area to be planted.

Seed must be drilled, broadcast, and harrowed, or mixed with manure and spot-dropped. The manure mixture for spot seeding must have seed well mixed into one-half ton of moist manure per acre. The seeding mixture must contain at least one grass and one legume. Three or more of the following must be seeded at the rates indicated:

WHEN BROADCAST OR DRILLED—

| | Pounds | | Pounds |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| Rescue grass..... | 5 | White Dutch clover..... | 2 |
| Bermuda grass..... | 4 | Hop clover..... | 4 |
| Carpet grass..... | 4 | Persian clover..... | 4 |
| Dallis grass..... | 4 | Black medic..... | 4 |
| Bur-clover { hulled..... | 5 | Sweetclover..... | 5 |
| in bur..... | 30 | Lespedeza..... | 5 |

NOTE.—Payment will not be made for carrying out this practice on any area on which payment is being made in 1942, or on which payment has been made under previous programs, for seeding permanent pasture grasses.

3. Artificial sodding of depleted range land—PAYMENT, \$3.00 per acre:

The resodding must be done with adapted varieties of range grasses such as s Bermuda, buffalo, Angleton, Para, Napier, or Guinea grasses. The resodding must provide not less than one sod piece or original clump of the above-named grasses, except buffalo, for each 28 square feet, or not less than one sod piece or original clump of buffalo for each 100 square feet of pasture land sodded. At least 60 percent of the grass pieces sodded must be growing at the time performance is checked.

EROSION AND RUN-OFF CONTROL

4. Contour listing, furrowing, or chiseling:

(a) Furrows with 60 square inches cross section and not less than 5 inches deep constructed with dams at intervals of not to exceeds 12 feet—PAYMENT, $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per 100 linear feet.

(b) Furrows with 60 square inches cross section and not less than 5 inches deep without dams—PAYMENT, 2 cents per 100 linear feet.

(c) Furrows with a minimum 32 square inches cross section and not less than 4 inches deep, or chiseling not less than 8 inches deep—PAYMENT, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per 100 linear feet.

Guide lines for this practice must be run at one-half the terrace interval. However, with the approval of the county committee, in regions of low annual rainfall the surveyed guide lines for contour furrows may be spaced at regular terrace intervals, provided that furrows not surveyed, if dammed, may be plowed parallel to the surveyed guide line if not more than 30 feet from it. In the event furrows are spaced less than 7 feet apart, payment for this practice must be calculated as if the furrows were spaced on a 7-foot interval.

5. Spreader dams and terraces and channel riprap:

(a) For constructing spreader dams—**PAYMENT, 15 cents per cubic yard of material moved** not in excess of 2,000 cubic yards, and 10 cents per cubic yard of material moved in excess of 2,000 cubic yards, for each spreader dam.

(b) For constructing spreader terraces—**PAYMENT, 50 cents per 100 linear feet.**

(c) For installing riprap of rock to prevent erosion along the channel of a stream—**PAYMENT, 50 cents per square yard of exposed surface.**

Spreader dams and terraces may be constructed alone or in combination with each other for the diversion of surface water to prevent erosion of range land. Such terraces must be built in accordance with specifications issued by the State committee. Such dams and terraces must be accurately laid off and checked with a standard farm level or surveyor's instrument. Dams, with the exception of spillways, must be constructed in accordance with specifications required under practice 6.

DEVELOPMENT OF STOCK WATER ON RANGE LAND

6. **Earthen tanks or reservoirs—PAYMENT, 15 cents per cubic yard of material moved** and used in the construction of a dam not in excess of 2,000 cubic yards per dam and 10 cents per cubic yard in excess of 2,000 cubic yards per dam; $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents per cubic yard for all material moved in the construction of a tank or reservoir when not used in the construction of a dam.

Where it is determined by the county committee that any existing earthen dam does not constitute a suitable watering place for livestock and that the enlargement of such dam will contribute to the effectuation of the purposes of the program, payment will be made at the same rate and under the same specifications as apply to the construction of new earthen dams and reservoirs.

Reservoirs or earthen tanks must be constructed with spillways adequate to prevent dams from washing out. Dams shall be constructed in accordance with approved specifications issued by the State committee. Prior to construction, the site for such dam must be inspected and if the dam to be constructed will be 8 feet or more in height or will consist of approximately 300 cubic yards or more of earth, or if the surface of the ground on which the dam is to be constructed is extremely irregular, a preliminary survey must be made by a representative of the county committee. A profile must be made and platted and benchmarks and reference points established.

7. Concrete or rubble-masonry dams or drops—PAYMENT, \$6.00 per cubic yard.

The construction of concrete or rubble-masonry dams will be approved only on rough or broken range land for providing range livestock with water or for erosion control where earthen dams or reservoirs are impracticable and where there is no possibility of using the water stored by such dam for irrigation purposes. Dams must be constructed in accordance with specifications issued by the State committee.

After a dam site is definitely decided on, it is required that a profile be made and platted and benchmarks and reference points established.

Concrete drops may be constructed in locations where it is impossible to control floodwaters by any other method. Drops will be installed in series in such manner as to reduce soil erosion to a minimum.

8. Drilling or digging wells.

(a) Wells with casing not less than 4 inches in diameter—**PAYMENT, \$2.00 per linear foot.**

(b) Wells with casing less than 4 inches but not less than 2 inches in diameter—**PAYMENT, \$1.00 per linear foot.**

Drilling or digging wells will be approved only for the purpose of better distribution of watering places for livestock on range land, thus preventing erosion caused by trampling out of grass by livestock going long distances to water and by overcrowding at one place. Such wells must be sufficiently cased to prevent caving. The ranchman is required to erect or install at his expense a windmill or power pump, together with adequate pumping equipment and water tanks. Payment will not be made for a well developed at or near ranch headquarters. A dry hole will not qualify for payment. An artesian well will qualify for payment at \$1.00 per linear foot if suitable stock water is made available during the grazing season and the water is conveyed to one or more adequate tanks or troughs.

9. Development of natural watering places for range livestock.

(a) Where excavation is in soil or gravel—**PAYMENT, 30 cents per cubic foot.**

(b) Where excavation is in rock—**PAYMENT, 50 cents per cubic foot.**

In developing springs or seeps by excavating, at least sufficient material must be excavated at applicable rates to amount to \$20.00. The minimum payment for the development of one spring or seep shall be \$20.00 and the maximum shall be \$200.00.

The springs or seeps must be walled up with concrete or masonry; the source must be protected from trampling by adequate fencing; and the water must be conveyed through a trough or a pipe not less than 1 inch in diameter to a tank of at least 20 cubic feet capacity for the purpose of providing water for range livestock.

This practice is applicable only in arid or semiarid areas and where it contributes to a better distribution of livestock grazing. No payment will be made under this practice for any storage for which payment is made under practice 6 or 7.

CONSERVATION OF RANGE LANDS THROUGH THE ELIMINATION OF
DESTRUCTIVE PLANTS

10. Eliminating pricklypear and cactus.

- (a) **Light infestation**, 2 percent to 6 percent, inclusive—PAYMENT, 50 cents per acre.
- (b) **Medium infestation**, 7 percent to 12 percent, inclusive—PAYMENT, 75 cents per acre.
- (c) **Heavy infestation**, above 12 percent—PAYMENT, \$1.00 per acre.

11. Eliminating mesquite and huisache.

- (a) **Light infestation**, 5 percent to 20 percent, inclusive—PAYMENT, 50 cents per acre.
- (b) **Medium infestation**, 21 percent to 40 percent, inclusive—PAYMENT, \$1.00 per acre.
- (c) **Heavy infestation**, above 40 percent—PAYMENT, \$2.00 per acre.

12. Eliminating cedar.

- (a) **Light infestation**, 5 percent to 15 percent, inclusive—PAYMENT, 50 cents per acre.
- (b) **Medium infestation**, 16 percent to 30 percent, inclusive—PAYMENT, \$1.00 per acre.
- (c) **Heavy infestation**, above 30 percent—PAYMENT, \$1.50 per acre.

13. Eliminating lechuguilla.

- (a) **Light infestation**, 2 percent to 5 percent inclusive—PAYMENT, 50 cents per acre.
- (b) **Medium infestation**, 6 percent to 9 percent, inclusive—PAYMENT, 75 cents per acre.
- (c) **Heavy infestation**, above 9 percent—PAYMENT, \$1.00 per acre.

14. Eliminating sagebrush:

- (a) **Infestation of 20 percent or less**—PAYMENT, 50 cents per acre.
- (b) **Infestation of above 20 percent**—PAYMENT, \$1.00 per acre.

Mowing must be done during the months of June and July, and it is desirable that the area mowed have grazing withheld in accordance with practice 1. If the infested area is sandy, the mowing should occur on the lower areas of the range and sagebrush left for protection on the higher areas.

15. Eliminating noxious underbrush, bushes, and shrubs:

- (a) **Light infestation**, 5 percent to 20 percent, inclusive—PAYMENT, 50 cents per acre.
- (b) **Medium infestation**, 21 percent to 40 percent, inclusive—PAYMENT, \$1.00 per acre.
- (c) **Heavy infestation**, above 40 percent—PAYMENT, \$2.00 per acre.

NOTE.—The degree of infestation of destructive plants as outlined in practices 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 will be determined by judging the density of the growths and grading them in accordance with the percentage of the ground covered by the total spread of trees or plants, as estimated by the range inspector. In order to make an accurate estimate as to the percentage of coverage of such plants, the range inspector should step off a representative tenth or twentieth of an acre of infested area and measure the ground covered by all the trees and plants under consideration that are on the area. From this he can determine the percentage of coverage on such plot or plots, then use this percentage as a basis for arriving at the percentage of the entire infested area. Where infestation is less than the minimum percent shown under each of the above practices, coverage will be calculated by counting as 1 acre 2 or more acres, but not more than 4 acres, according to the relative facts found by the range inspector and approved by the county committee. Also, if the county committee determines that the control of destructive plants under practice 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, or 15 will reduce the vegetative cover to such an extent as to cause increased soil erosion, the use of practice 2 or 3, artificial reseeding or sodding, shall also be required where soil and climatic conditions permit.

16. Destruction of noxious plants by mowing—PAYMENT, 25 cents per acre per mowing.

Payment will not be made if the plants mowed are used for hay or sold for any purpose, nor for mowing a greater number of times than the county committee, with the approval of the State committee, finds is necessary for destruction of the noxious plants.

FIREGUARDS

17. Establishment of fireguards—PAYMENT, 5 cents per 100 linear feet.

Fireguards must not be less than 10 feet in width and must be constructed by exposing the soil by plowing furrows or by other mechanical means. All vegetation in the fireguard must be destroyed. Proper arrangements must be made to prevent erosion and gullyng, and the fireguard otherwise maintained throughout the year. Payment will not be made if the fireguard is used in connection with controlled burning within the ranching unit.

18. Establishing cover crops—PAYMENT, 75 cents per acre.

Leaving on the land a good stand and good growth of sorghums or Sudan grass, close-grown or in rows not more than 16 inches apart, where the operator's farming plan provides that such cover is to be left on the land until the spring of 1943 and used in connection with the seeding of perennial grasses in 1943.

Section 6. GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR PAYMENT

Application for payments may be made only by a ranch operator, who is the person operating a ranching unit as owner or lessee, or a person who acts in a similar capacity in the operation of a ranch. In case there are two or more ranch operators, the application should be signed by all of them. However, if one or more refuse to sign, the county committee will determine the percentage shares of the operators who have signed the application. An owner or lessee who will operate the ranch for a portion of the year must apply for inspection before the closing date for accepting applications in order

to qualify under the program for performance after he actually assumes operation.

Payment may be withheld from any ranch operator who fails within the prescribed time to file any form or furnish any information required concerning any ranch or farm in which he is interested. Payment will be made only upon application submitted through the county office on or before March 31, 1943. No payment will be made for any practice for which one-half or more of the total cost of the labor, seed, trees, or materials used in carrying out the practice is furnished by any State or Federal agency other than the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. If less than one-half of the total cost of the labor, seed, trees, or other materials used in carrying out any practice is furnished by a State or Federal agency other than the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, one-half of such practice shall qualify for payment.

All or any part of any payment under this program may be withheld, or required to be returned, from any ranch operator (1) who has adopted any practice which tends to defeat the purposes of the 1942 or any previous program or who in any manner whatsoever offsets, or participates in offsetting, performance for which payment is sought; (2) if, by means of any corporation, partnership, estate, trust, or any other device, or in any manner whatsoever, he has offset, or has participated in offsetting, in whole or in part, the performance for which such payment is otherwise authorized; (3) who adopts any practice on forest land or woodland controlled by him which is contrary to sound conservation practices; (4) where adequate inspection of his ranch shows the stand of grass has been decreased or the forage, tree growth, or watershed has been injured by overgrazing in 1942, consideration being given to rainfall, rate of stocking, and other local conditions; or (5) who changes for 1942 the 1941 leasing arrangements so as to divert to himself payments which would have been made to the lessee under the 1941 conditions of the lease, or who the State committee finds has employed any other scheme or device which would have the effect of depriving any other person of any payment or share of payment to which such other person otherwise would be entitled.

Payments computed for any person for carrying out range-building practices shall be subject to any net deductions which are or could be computed for him under the provisions of the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program Bulletin. As provided in Sec. 349 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, no payment will be made for participation in the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program for Range Land to any person who knowingly overplants in 1942 the farm cotton acreage allotment determined under Sec. 344 of the Act for any farm in which he has an interest.

The total of all payments made in connection with programs for 1942 under Section 8 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act to any individual, partnership, or estate with respect to farms, ranching units, and turpentine places located within a single State, Territory, or possession shall not exceed the sum of \$10,000 prior to deduction for association expenses in the county or counties with respect to which the particular payment is made. The total of all payments made in connection with programs for 1942 under said Act to any person other than an individual, partnership, or estate

with respect to farms, ranching units, and turpentine places in the United States (including Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico) shall not exceed the sum of \$10,000 prior to deduction for association expenses in the county or counties with respect to which the particular payment is made. All or any part of any payment which has been or otherwise would be made to any person under the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program, including the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program for Range Land, may be withheld or required to be returned if he has adopted or participated in adopting any scheme or device, including the dissolution, reorganization, or formation of any corporation, partnership, estate, or trust, or by any other means, which was designed to evade, or would have the effect of evading, the provisions of this paragraph.

Any payment or share of payment shall be computed and made without regard to questions of title under State law, without deduction of claims for advances (except as provided in section 7), and without regard to any claim or lien against any crop or livestock, or proceeds thereof, in favor of the owner or any other creditor.

Where the county committee, in accordance with instructions of the State committee, determines that (1) any water development or fence constructed or forest trees planted are not maintained in accordance with good ranch management; (2) any seeding of perennial legumes or grasses is destroyed after ranch operators generally have been informed that the destruction of such legumes or grasses is contrary to good ranch management; or (3) the effectiveness of any range-building practice carried out under a previous program is destroyed in 1942 contrary to good range management, there will be deducted an amount equal to the payment that would be made in 1942 for a similar amount of such practice from the net payment due the person on the same or any other farm or ranch in the county who was responsible for the failure to maintain such practice. In the event that the amount of such deduction exceeds the amount of payment for the producer subject to deduction, the amount of such difference shall be paid by the producer to the Secretary.

Section 7. ASSIGNMENTS

A person may assign his interest in any payment due him under the 1942 program as security for a loan or advances made for financing the carrying out of range-building practices in 1942. An assignment must be made in writing on Form ACP-69 in accordance with instructions (ACP-70) issued by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and filed in the county office. No assignment will be recognized unless it is entitled to priority as determined under the instructions issued by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The assignee is not entitled to any payment other than that to which the ranch operator is entitled, nor (as provided in the statute) shall the Secretary or any disbursing agent be subject to any suit or liability if payment is made to the ranch operator without regard to the existence of any such assignment.

Section 8. DEDUCTIONS FOR ASSOCIATION EXPENSES

There shall be deducted pro rata from the payments with respect to any ranching unit all or such part as the Secretary may prescribe

of the estimated administrative expenses incurred or to be incurred by the county agricultural conservation association in the county in which the ranching unit is located.

Section 9. APPEALS

Any ranch operator who considers himself aggrieved by any recommendation or determination of the county committee may, within 15 days after notice thereof is issued, request the county committee in writing to reconsider the recommendation or determination. Appeals may also be taken from the decisions of the county committee to the State committee and to the Director of the Southern Division in accordance with procedure issued by said Director.

Section 10. AUTHORITY

This handbook for Texas and Oklahoma outlining the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program for Range Land is issued pursuant to the provisions of the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program Bulletin (ACP-1942), as amended, and the 1942 Special Agricultural Conservation Program for the Southern Great Plains Area, and all payments for range-building practices in 1942 will be made in accordance with the provisions of this handbook and such modifications thereof or other provisions as may hereafter become necessary, except that, in case of a conflict between this handbook and the applicable national bulletin, the national bulletin shall govern.

Issued November 29, 1941, with the approval of the Acting Administrator.

I. W. DUGGAN,
Director, Southern Division.

